NUMB. CCCCXIII.

The SPECTATOR.

——Cauſa latet, vis eſt notiſſima—— Ovid.

Tueſday, June 24. 1712.

THOUGH in Yeſterday's Paper we conſidered how every thing that is *Great*, *New*, or *Beautiful*, is apt to affect the Imagination with Pleaſure, we own that it is impoſſible for us to aſſign the Cauſe of this Pleaſure, becauſe we know not the Nature of an Idea, nor the Subſtance of the Soul, which might help us to diſcover the Conformity or Diſagreeableneſs of the one to the other; and therefore, for want of ſuch a Light, all we can do in Speculations of this kind, is to reflect on thoſe Operations of the Soul that are more agreeable, and to range, under their proper Heads, what is pleaſing or diſpleaſing to the Mind, without being able to trace out the ſeveral neceſſary Cauſes from whence the Pleaſure or Diſpleaſure ariſes.

The *Cauſes* lye more bare and open to our Obſervation, as there are often a great Variety that produce the ſame Effect; and theſe, tho' they are altogether ſo ſatisfactory, are generally more pleaſing than the other, as they give us greater Occaſion of admiring the Goodneſs and Wiſdom of the firſt Contriver.

Some of the Final Cauſes of our Delight, in any thing that is *great*, may be this. The Supreme Author of our Being has ſo formed the Soul of Man, that nothing but himſelf can be its laſt, adequate and proper Happineſs. Becauſe, therefore, a great part of our Happineſs muſt ariſe from the Contemplation of his Being, that he might give our Minds a juſt Reliſh of ſuch a Contemplation, he has made them naturally delight in the Apprehenſion of any thing that is Great or Unlimited. Our Admiration, which is a very pleaſing Motion of the Mind, immediately riſes at the Conſideration of any Object that takes up a great deal of room in the Fancy, and by conſequence, will improve into the higheſt Pleaſure and Devotion when we apply it to him whoſe Nature, that is neither circumſcribed by Time nor Place, nor to be comprehended by the largeſt Capacity of a Created Being.

He has annexed a ſecret Pleaſure to the Idea of any thing that is *new* or *uncommon*, that he might encourage us in the Purſuit after Knowledge, and engage us to ſearch into the Wonders of his Creation: For every new Idea brings ſuch a Pleaſure along with it, as rewards any Pains we have taken for the Acquiſition, and conſequently ſerves as a Motive to put us upon freſh Diſcoveries.

He has made every thing that is *beautiful in our Sight*, or in other Species pleaſant, that all Creatures might be more inclined to multiply their Kind, and fill the World, with Inhabitants; for 'tis very remarkable that wherever Nature is croſt in the Production of a Monſter (the Reſult of any unnatural Mixture) the Breed is incapable of propagating its Likeneſs, and of founding a new Order of Creatures; ſo that unleſs all Animals were allured by the Beauty of their own Species, Generation would be at an end, and the Earth unpeopled.

In the laſt place, he has made every thing that is beautiful in all other Objects pleaſant, or rather has made ſo many Objects appear beautiful, that he might render the whole Creation more gay and delightful. He has given almoſt every thing about us the Power of raiſing an agreeable Idea in the Imagination: So that it is impoſſible for us to behold his Works with Coldneſs or Indifference, and to ſurvey ſo many Beauties without a ſecret Satisfaction and Complacency. Things would make but a poor Appearance to the Eye, if we ſaw them only in their proper Figures and Motions: And what Reaſon can we aſſign for their exciting in us many of thoſe Ideas which are different from any thing that exiſts in the Objects themſelves, (for ſuch are Light and Colours) were it not to add Supernumary Ornaments to the Univerſe, and make it more agreeable to the Imagination? We are every where entertained with pleaſing Shows and Apparitions, we diſcover imaginary Glories in the Heavens, and in the Earth, and ſee ſome of this Viſionary Beauty poured out upon the whole Creation; but what a rough unſightly Sketch of Nature ſhould we be entertained with, did all her Colouring diſappear, and the ſeveral Diſtinctions of Light and Shade vaniſh? In ſhort, our Souls are at preſent delightfully loſt and bewildered in a pleaſing Deluſion, and we walk about like the Enchanted Hero of a Romance, that ſees beautiful Caſtles, Woods and Meadows; and at the ſame time hears the warbling of Birds, and the purling of Streams; but upon the finiſhing of ſome ſecret Spell, the fantaſtick Scene breaks up, and the diſconſolate Knight finds himſelf on a barren Heath, or in a ſolitary Deſart. It is not improbable that ſomething like this may be the State of the Soul after its firſt Separation, in reſpect of the Images it will receive from Matter; tho' indeed the Ideas of Colours are ſo pleaſing and beautiful in the Imagination, that it is poſſible the Soul will not be deprived of them, but perhaps find them excited by ſome other Occaſional Cauſe, as they are at preſent by the different Impreſſions of the ſubtle Matter on the Organ of Sight.

I have here ſuppoſed that my Reader is acquainted with that great Modern Diſcovery, which is at preſent univerſally acknowledged by all the Enquirers into Natural Philoſophy: Namely, that Light and Colours, as apprehended by the Imaginati-

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on, are only Ideas in the Mind, and not Qualities that have any Existence in Matter. As this is a Truth that has been proved incontestably by many Modern Philosophers, and is indeed one of the finest Speculations in that Science, if the *English* Reader would see the Notion explained at large, he may find it in the Eighth Chapter of the Second Book of Mr. *Lock*'s Essay on Human Understanding.

Mr. SPECTATOR, *June* 24, 1712.

'I Would not divert the Course of your Discourses, 'when you seem bent upon obliging the World 'with a train of Thinking, which, rightly attended, may render the Life of every Man, who reads it, more easy and happy for the future. The 'Pleasures of the Imagination are what bewilder 'Life, when Reason and Judgment do not interpose; It is therefore a worthy Action in you, to 'look carefully into the Powers of Fancy, that other Men, from the Knowledge of them, may 'improve their Joys, and allay their Griefs, by a 'just use of that Faculty: I say, Sir, I would not 'interrupt you in the Progress of this Discourse; 'but, if you will do me the Favour of inserting 'this Letter in your next Paper, you will do some 'Service to the Publick, tho' not in so noble a way 'of Obliging, as that of improving their Minds. 'Allow me, Sir, to acquaint you with a Design '(of which I am partly Author) tho' it tends to 'no greater a Good than that of getting Mony. I 'should not hope for the Favour of a Philosopher 'in this Matter, if it were not attempted under all 'the Restrictions which you Sages put upon private 'Acquisitions.

'The first Purpose which every good Man is to propose to himself, is the Service of his Prince and 'Country; after that is done, he cannot add to himself 'but he must also be beneficial to them. This Scheme 'of Gain is not only consistent with that End, but 'has its very Being in Subordination to it, for no 'Man can be a Gainer here, but at the same time he 'himself, or some other, must succeed in their Dealings with the Government. It is called the *Multiplication Table*, and is so far calculated for the immediate Service of Her Majesty, that the same Person who is fortunate in the Lottery of the State, 'may receive yet further Advantage in this Table. 'And I am sure nothing can be more pleasing to 'Her gracious Temper, than to find out additional 'Methods of encreasing their good Fortune who 'adventure any thing in Her Service, or laying Occasions for others to become capable of serving 'their Country, who are at present in too low Circumstances to exert themselves. The manner of 'executing the Design is by giving out Receipts for 'half Guineas received, which shall entitule the 'fortunate Bearer to certain Sums in the Table, as 'is set forth at large in the Proposals Printed the '23d Instant. There is another Circumstance in this 'Design which gives me hopes of your Favour in 'it, and that is what *Tully* advises, to wit, that 'the Benefit is made as diffusive as possible. Every 'one that has half a Guinea is put into a possibility 'from that small Sum to raise to himself an easie 'Fortune. When these little parcels of Wealth 'are, as it were, thus thrown back again into the 'Redonation of Providence, we are to expect that 'some who live under Hardship or Obscurity, 'may be produced to the World in the Figure they 'deserve by this means. I doubt not but this last 'Argument will have Force with you, and I cannot 'add another to it, but what your Severity will, I 'fear, very little regard, which is, that

I am, SIR,

Your greatest Admirer,

Richard Steele.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, to-morrow being Wednesday, the 25th of June, will be presented an English Opera called Calypso and Telemachus. Being the last time of acting it this Season. The Boxes 8 s. Pit 5 s. First Gallery 3 s. 6 d. Upper Gallery 1 s. 6 d. Boxes upon the Stage half a Guinea. To begin exactly at half an Hour after Seven. By Her Majesty's Command. No Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

On Thursday next will be Published,

A Cruising Voyage round the World, first to the South Seas, thence to the East-Indies, and homewards by the Cape of Good Hope. Begun in 1708, and finished in 1711. Containing a Journal of all the remarkable Transactions, particularly of the taking of Puna and Guisquil, of the Acapulco Ship, and other Prizes. A more particular Account of Alexander Selkirk's living alone four Years and four Months in an Island, than has hitherto been given. Also a brief Description of several Countries in our Course noted for Trade, especially in the South Sea. Together with a Table of every Days run cross that great Ocean from California to the Island Guam in the East Indies. Also Maps of all the Coasts of South America for 1800 Miles, taken from the best Spanish Manuscript Draughts. And an Introduction relating to the South Sea Trade. By Capt. Woodes Rogers Commander in chief of this Expedition with the Ships Duke and Duchess of Bristol. Printed for A. Bell and Bernard Lintot, and sold by Mr. Horn, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Philips by the Exchange, Mr. Morphew near Tower-Hill, and Mr. Tracey on London-bridge. Price bound 5 s.

This Day is Published,

Callipædia. A Poem in four Books. With some other Pieces of the same Author. Written in Latin by Claudius Callipedius, made English by N. Rowe, Esq. To which is prefix'd Mr. Spence's Account of the Author's Life and Writings. Printed for E. Sanger at the Post-house, and E. Curle at the Dial and Bible against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street. Price 1 s. Where may be had Monsieur Boileau's Works, in two Volumes, price 12 s. N. B. There are a small number of Mr. Rowe's Callipedia Printed on large Paper at 2 s. 6 d. each.

Whereas John Prince, John Sadler, and William Jodrell, Mercers, at the Black Lyon in Kingstreet Covent Garden, have resolved to leave off the Mercers Trade. These are to give notice, That at the said Shop are to be sold at very low Prices, a Store of the newest Fashion Gold and Silver Stuffs, and Stuffs Flowered and plain Velvets, Silk Brocades, Flowered and plain Damasks, Watered Taffeties, Farendines and Mohairs, Shagreens, Persians, Silk Night Gowns, Thread Satins, Poplins, Norwich Crapes, Silk and other Druggets, Hair and Worsted Camblets, Shags and Shalloons.

For Sale by the Candle,

Fine neat Batavia Arrack, being the remaining part of the Cargo of the Oley Frigate, imported from the East Indies, to be Sold on Thursday the 26th Instant, at Garraway's Coffee-house in Exchange Alley, at 5 in the Afternoon punctually. The Arrack to be seen this Day and Wednesday, the 24th and 25th Instant, before the Sale at Rudolph Wharf, and Catalogues of the Sale to be had gratis at John's Coffee-house in Birchin-Lane in Cornhill, the Sun Coffee-house behind the Royal Exchange, the Rainbow Coffee-house in Fleet-street, Squire's Coffee-house in Fullers Rents in Holborn, Tom's Coffee-house in Covent Garden, St. James's Coffee-house by St. James's Gate, the Warehouse, and Place of Sale. To be Sold by Owen Swan Broker, who is to be spoken with at John's Coffee-house in Birchin Lane in Cornhill.

Near Camden-house in Kensington, is to be Let a very good House ready Furnished, with Coach-house and Stable, and all other Conveniencies for a Family. Enquire for Mr. Wall's House.

For SALE by the CANDLE,

On Thursday the 26th Instant, at the Marine Coffee-house in Birchin-lane in Cornhill, at 3 in the Afternoon, Rich Camlets, Thrown Silk, Sewing Silk, Ribbons, Mask, Crape, Gloves, Ware, old Iron, Lawns, &c. being part of the Goods taken in the South Sea by the Duke and Dutchess private ships of War belonging to Bristol. Catalogues may be had at Mason Lyng's Warehouse in Seething-lane, at the Place of Sale, and at Sam. Procter, Broker, in St. Martin's lane.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in, as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.